



## UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Address to:	Attorney Docket No.	FDC 0135 PUS
Box PATENT APPLICATION Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231	Inventor(s) or Application Identifier: Ian M. Drysdale	

12/17/99  
USPTO  
109/46621



1. This application entitled METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PERFORMING CARD TRANSACTIONS is:

a.  A new application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).

b.  A continuation divisional or continuation-in-part application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of prior application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_, entitled \_\_\_\_\_.

Application elements and other attached papers:

2.  Specification (incl. Claims and Abstract) [Total Pages 11]

3.  Drawings (informal  formal) [Total Sheets 2]

4.  Oath or Declaration

a.  Newly-executed

b.  Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))

5.  Incorporation By Reference: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under item 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

6.  This application is filed by fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application, 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d)(4).

a.  ~~DELETE~~ the following inventor(s) named in the prior nonprovisional application:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b.  The inventor(s) to be deleted are set forth on a separate sheet attached hereto.

## CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" addressed to: Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Express  
Mail Label No. EL 450 455 310 US

Shelly Kean

(Type or print name of person mailing paper)

Date of Deposit: December 17, 1999

Shelly Kean  
(Signature of person mailing paper)

## 7. Preliminary Amendment:

- a.  A Preliminary Amendment is attached.
- b.  Cancel in this application original claims \_\_\_\_\_ of the prior application before calculating the filing fee.
- c.  Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:  
 "This is a  
 continuation  
 divisional  
 of copending application(s)  
 Serial number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_."
- d.  A Petition to Suspend Prosecution For The Time Necessary to File An Amendment (New Application Filed Concurrently) is attached.

## 8. Small entity status:

- a.  A small entity statement is attached.
- b.  A small entity statement was filed in the prior nonprovisional application and such status is still proper and desired.
- c.  Is no longer desired.

## 9. Fee Calculation:

FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	CALCULATIONS
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c))	16 -20 =	0	X 18.00	0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b))	3 -3 =	0	X 78.00	0
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 C.F.R. §1.16(d))			260.00	
			BASIC FEE (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a))	760.00
			Total of above Calculations =	0
Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28)				0
			Assignment Recordal Fee	40.00
				TOTAL = 760.00

10.  A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.11.  The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees (or any deficiency therein) to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_:

- a.  Fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16.
- b.  Fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.
- c.  No Fee Being Submitted At This Time.

12. Maintenance of Copendency of Prior Application

A request for extension of time and the appropriate fee have been filed in the pending **prior** application (or are being filed in the prior application concurrently herewith) to extend the period for response until \_\_\_\_\_.

13.  An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is attached, along with the following indicated attachments thereto:

a.  Form PTO/SB/08 (\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_ sheet(s))

b.  Copies of references cited

14.  Certified copy of priority document(s)

15.  Return Receipt Postcard

16.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17.  An Assignment of the invention to \_\_\_\_\_

a.  is attached.

b.  was recorded on \_\_\_\_\_ at Reel \_\_\_\_\_, Frame \_\_\_\_\_.

18. The power of attorney in the prior application is to:

Name of Attorney of Record

Reg. No.

The power appears in the original papers in the prior application.

The power does not appear in the original papers, but was filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

A new power has been executed and is attached.

19. Correspondence Address: Please address all future communications to:

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Respectfully submitted,

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Registration No.: 44,364

Date December 17, 1999

Attorney or agent of record  
 Filed under Rule 34(a)

**METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PERFORMING  
CARD TRANSACTIONS**

**TECHNICAL FIELD**

The invention relates to a method and device for performing a card  
5 transaction using the Internet to facilitate processing of the transaction.

**BACKGROUND ART**

Many transactions, such as sales transactions, involve consumers that  
use charge cards, credit cards, debit cards and the like. Such transactions may be  
10 collectively referred to as card transactions. Typically, merchants must obtain  
authorization for these transactions and/or transmit information regarding the  
transactions to another entity, such as a merchant service provider.

A prior method of performing a card transaction involves using a  
point of service terminal that has proprietary operating system software of a  
particular merchant service provider installed thereon. The terminal also typically  
15 has other proprietary software for performing such functions as fraud evaluations  
and report printing. The terminal is used to access a proprietary network of the  
merchant service provider, and to transmit information regarding the transaction to  
the network in order to obtain authorization for the transaction.

Because this method utilizes proprietary software and a proprietary  
20 network, this method involves significant capital costs. In addition, because the  
software is installed directly on the terminal, any revisions to the software must be  
downloaded to or otherwise installed on the terminal. Such revisions are therefore  
time-consuming and costly to perform. Furthermore, installation of some software  
revisions may be delayed or never accomplished. Consequently, the terminal may  
25 not perform all functions required for a particular transaction.

Another prior method of performing a card transaction involves a consumer using a personal computer to access a web site of a particular merchant. The consumer may then purchase items from the web site by entering a credit card number into the web site using a key pad of the personal computer. Because the personal computer is not a dedicated point of service terminal, however, such a method is inefficient for performing transactions at merchant locations.

#### DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

The invention overcomes the shortcomings of the prior art by 10 providing a method and device for performing a card transaction using the Internet to facilitate processing of the transaction, wherein the method and device involve a card reader for receiving a transaction card. Because neither a proprietary operating system nor a proprietary network are required, this method is less costly than prior methods that involve such systems and networks.

15 Under the invention, a method of performing a card transaction includes accessing a web server using a transaction device, wherein the web server includes commands for processing the transaction; and entering a transaction card into a card reader of the transaction device in order to enter transaction information 20 associated with the card into the web server.

The method may further include entering additional transaction information into the web server using a touch-sensitive screen of the transaction device and/or a keypad of the transaction device.

25 Preferably, the method includes displaying information on a display device of the transaction device. Advantageously, the display device may be used to display an advertisement, an electronic coupon or other information downloaded from the web server and/or other site on the Internet. Consequently, the method of the invention provides far greater access to all types of information compared with prior methods.

In addition, the method may include obtaining authorization for the transaction through the web server. Furthermore, because the commands for obtaining such authorization are preferably included in the web server, the commands may be easily updated and/or revised as necessary.

5 Further under the invention, a point of service terminal for performing a card transaction includes a central processing unit having a web browser for accessing a web server on the Internet. The terminal also includes a card reader in communication with the central processing unit for receiving a transaction card and entering transaction information associated with the card into the web server.

10 Preferably, the terminal further includes a data entry device, such as a keypad, in communication with the central processing unit for entering additional transaction information into the web server. The terminal may also include a display device in communication with the central processing unit for displaying information downloaded from the Internet. Advantageously, the display device may include a 15 touch-sensitive screen for entering additional transaction information into the web server.

These and other objects, features and advantages of the invention are readily apparent from the following detailed description of the best mode for carrying out the invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying 20 drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a schematic diagram of a transaction device for 25 performing a card transaction according to the present invention; and

FIGURE 2 is a flow chart illustrating operation of the method of the invention.

**BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION**

Figure 1 shows a dedicated transaction device or point of service terminal 10 for performing a card transaction according to the present invention. As used herein, the term "card transaction" refers to a transaction, such as a sale transaction, cash-advance transaction, and the like, that involves a charge card, credit card, debit card or other transaction card. The terminal 10 is preferably configured to be used at merchant or retail locations, such as stores, restaurants, lodging facilities, auto rental companies, hospitals, universities, and the like. Furthermore, the terminal 10 is used to transmit information to a financial services institution, such as a merchant service provider (MSP), and to obtain authorization for a transaction or transactions from the MSP as explained below in greater detail. The MSP may be a transaction acquirer or an agent of a transaction acquirer.

The terminal 10 includes a central processing unit or processor 12, and several peripheral devices in communication with the processor 12. For example, the terminal 10 may include one or more data entry devices, such as a card reader 14 and a keypad 16. Furthermore, the terminal 10 preferably includes a display device 18, which may also be configured as a data entry device as explained below in greater detail.

The card reader 14 is preferably configured to read magnetic strip cards as well as smart cards so that the terminal 10 can accommodate all types of charge cards, credit cards, debit cards and the like. The keypad 16 is preferably configured to receive alpha-numeric input, and is provided with an embedded mouse 20.

The display device 18 has a relatively large color screen 22 that is preferably at least 3 inches by 3 inches. Alternatively, the screen 22 may have any suitable size. The screen 22 may also be touch-sensitive so that a consumer, merchant or other operator can provide input to the terminal 10 by touching the screen 22. For example, a consumer may use his finger to select an appropriate response displayed on the screen 22. As another example, the terminal 10 may be

provided with an electronic pen 23, which the consumer may use on the screen 22 to provide his signature.

5 The terminal 10 is adapted to be connected to the Internet 24 through an Internet Service Provider (ISP), such as AMERICA ON-LINE®, EARTH LINK®, and the like. Furthermore, the terminal 10 is preferably, but not necessarily, configured to transmit and receive data or information using the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol suite (TCP/IP).

10 The terminal 10 is also configured to communicate with the World Wide Web in order to access a particular web page on a web host or server of the MSP. Accordingly, the terminal 10 is preferably provided with a web browser such as NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR GOLD®, MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER®, and the like. Alternatively, the web browser may be a program provided by the MSP or other financial services institution.

15 The web page and web server are preferably, but not necessarily, configured to transmit and receive data or information using TCP/IP. Furthermore, the web page and web server are preferably programmed in HYPERTEXT MARKUP LANGUAGE® (HTML), and include commands for processing transactions initiated through the terminal 10. For example, the web page and/or web server may include commands for transmitting information between the terminal 20 10 and the web page and/or web server. Preferably the web page and/or web server includes all commands necessary to obtain authorization of transactions initiated through the terminal 10. Advantageously, then, the terminal 10 need not include any proprietary software of the MSP in order to complete transactions. Furthermore, because the terminal 10 accesses the Internet 24 through an ISP, instead of accessing 25 a proprietary network of the MSP, the terminal 10 need only include software necessary to access the Internet.

The MSP also has a central data base or host computer 26 adapted to be connected to the Internet 24 in order to communicate with the web server. The host computer 26 may be used to download information regarding transactions

initiated through the terminal 10 and/or other terminals. The host computer 26 may also be used to update or otherwise revise the transaction commands on the web page and/or web server. Advantageously, such updates and/or revisions need not be downloaded to the terminal 10 or other terminals.

5       Figure 2 is a flow chart illustrating operation of a method for  
performing a card transaction using the terminal 10. At step 100, a consumer or  
merchant swipes a transaction card, such as a charge card, credit card, debit card,  
and the like, across the card reader 14 of the terminal 10 in order to enter an account  
number and/or other transaction information associated with the card into the  
terminal 10. Alternatively, the account number may be entered into the terminal 10  
10 using the keypad 16. At step 102, the terminal 10 is connected to the Internet  
through a particular ISP using a dial-up connection, cable modem, Asymmetric  
Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL), T1 connection or any other suitable communication  
path. Next, at step 104, the web browser installed on the terminal 10 is used to  
15 automatically, or otherwise, access the web page on the web server of the MSP.  
Alternatively, the card may be swiped across or otherwise entered into the card  
reader 14 at any time during the transaction process, such as after the terminal 10  
has gained access to the web page.

At step 106, the web page and/or web server may then prompt the consumer and/or merchant for additional transaction information, or confirmation of transaction information already transmitted to the web page and/or web server, by displaying suitable requests on the display device 18. For example, the web page and/or web server may request confirmation of a transaction dollar value that was previously entered into the terminal 10 or into a cash register or similar device that is in communication with the terminal 10. The consumer and/or merchant may then enter additional transaction information into the web page and/or web server using the keypad 16, touch-sensitive screen 22 and/or other data entry device, as indicated at step 108.

30 Next, at step 110, the web page and/or web server performs an evaluation of the transaction information to determine whether the transaction is to

be approved. If the transaction is approved, the web page and/or web server may request an electronic signature from the consumer at step 112. The consumer may then provide his signature on the screen 22 using the pen 23, as indicated at step 114. If the transaction is not approved, then a message indicating such status may 5 be transmitted from the web page and/or web server to the terminal 10. Once the signature of the consumer has been obtained, a receipt may be provided to the consumer to complete the transaction, as indicated at step 116.

According to a feature of the invention, the web page and/or web server of the MSP may be configured to transmit additional information to the 10 terminal 10, such as help screens, e-mail, advertisements, and electronic coupons. Such information may be transmitted automatically to the display device 18, or as requested by the consumer or merchant. Because the web page and web server are programmed in HTML, the web page and web server may also be used to quickly link the consumer and/or merchant to related destinations or addresses on the World 15 Wide Web.

While embodiments of the invention have been illustrated and described, it is not intended that these embodiments illustrate and describe all possible forms of the invention. Rather, the words used in the specification are 20 words of description rather than limitation, and it is understood that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1                   1. A method of performing a card transaction, the method  
2 comprising:
  - 3                   accessing a web server using a transaction device, wherein the web  
4 server includes commands for processing the transaction; and
  - 5                   entering a transaction card into a card reader of the transaction device  
6 in order to enter transaction information associated with the card into the web server.
- 1                   2. The method of claim 1 wherein accessing a web server comprises  
2 accessing a web page of the web server, and wherein the web page includes  
3 commands for processing the transaction.
- 1                   3. The method of claim 1 further comprising entering additional  
2 transaction information into the web server.
- 1                   4. The method of claim 3 wherein entering additional transaction  
2 information includes entering additional transaction information using a touch-  
3 sensitive screen of the transaction device.
- 1                   5. The method of claim 3 wherein entering additional transaction  
2 information includes entering additional transaction information using a keypad of  
3 the transaction device.
- 1                   6. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying information  
2 on a display device of the transaction device.
- 1                   7. The method of claim 6 wherein displaying information includes  
2 displaying an advertisement downloaded from the Internet.
- 1                   8. The method of claim 6 wherein displaying information includes  
2 displaying an electronic coupon downloaded from the Internet.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising updating the  
commands of the web server.

1 11. A method of performing a card transaction, the method  
2 comprising:

3 accessing a web server using a point of service terminal having a web  
4 browser and a card reader, wherein the web server includes commands for obtaining  
5 authorization of the transaction;

6 entering a transaction card into the card reader in order to enter an  
7 account number associated with the card into the web server;

8 responding to prompts generated by the web server using the terminal;  
9 and

10 obtaining authorization for the transaction through the web server.

3 a central processing unit having a web browser for accessing a web  
4 server on the Internet; and

5 a card reader in communication with the central processing unit for  
6 receiving a transaction card and entering transaction information associated with the  
7 card into the web server.

1                   15. The point of service terminal of claim 12 further comprising a  
2 display device in communication with the central processing unit for displaying  
3 information downloaded from the Internet.

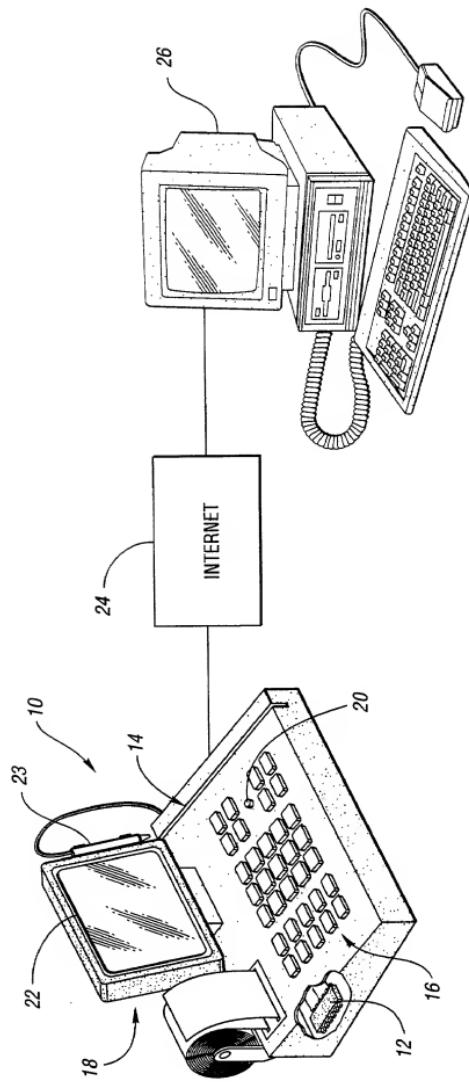
1                   16. The point of service terminal of claim 15 wherein the display  
2 device comprises a touch-sensitive screen.

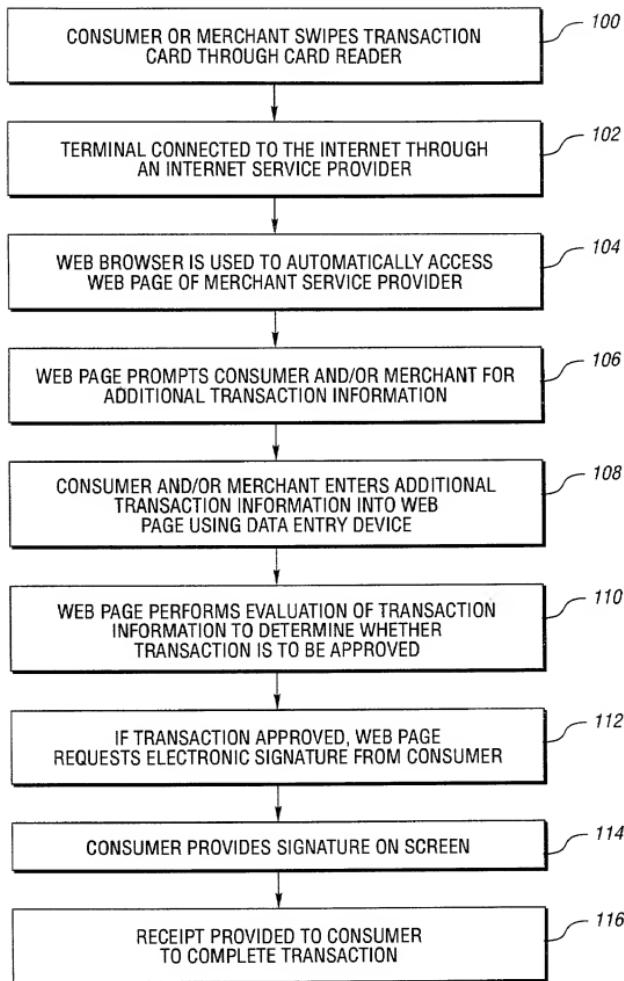
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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of performing a card transaction includes accessing a web server using a point of service terminal having a web browser and a card reader, wherein the web server includes commands for obtaining authorization of the transaction; entering a transaction card into the card reader in order to enter an account number associated with the card into the web server; responding to prompts generated by the web server using the terminal; and obtaining authorization for the transaction through the web server.

*Fig. 1*





*Fig. 2*